

## PRESS RELEASE

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AMERICAS SOCIETY HOSTS MAJOR EXHIBITION

OF CANADIAN 20TH CENTURY MASTER

November 15 - January 30, 1984

NEW YORK -- A major exhibition of 51 paintings by one of Canada's foremost 20th century masters will be on view at the Center for Inter-American Relations gallery at 680 Park Avenue from November 15, 1983 through January 30, 1984. The exhibition, PAUL-EMILE BORDUAS: PAINTED WORKS 1943 - 1960, which has been organized by the Musée d'Art Contemporain in Montreal and viewed previously in Brussels, Liege and Edinburgh, will enjoy an exclusive U.S. showing at the Center. Underwriting has been provided by the Canadian Consulate General and the Quebec Government House in New York.

The selection by André Menard, director of the Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal, confirms Borduas' historic position as a pioneer Canadian modernist and acknowledges his unique contribution to the evolution of abstract expressionist painting. Commencing with early abstract works produced in New York during 1943, the selection documents the important last 17 years of the artist's

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life with outstanding examples of his mature painting, and places him securely beside his notable contemporaries--Gottlieb, Kline, de Kooning, Motherwell and Pollock.

Borduas' intellectual life and times will also be on display at the Center--the subject of three lectures by prominent Canadian scholars, running concurrently with the exhibition. Borduas is considered a maverick in authoring the controversial manifesto Réfus global, in which he rejects conservative tradtion as exemplified in church dogma and Quebec figurative art of the time. There will be readings from the manifesto, discussions on Borduas' impact on the intellectual and cultural development of Quebec, and the screening of a National Film Board documentary about the artist.

The exhibition is fully documented in an authoritative illustrated 144 page catalogue with essays by two recognized Borduas scholars, François-Marc Gagnon and Fernande Saint-Martin, and extensive biographical and bibliographical data. The catalogue may be purchased for \$10. English translations of the French texts are available.

The Center gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from Quebec Government House and the Canadian Consulate General in bringing the exhibition to New York.

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The Americas Society is an organization, national in scope, established to coordinate activities of other institutions concerned with hemisphere affairs in the United States. Through a broad spectrum of programs and services, the Society promotes improved understanding of the economic, political and cultural values of countries in the hemisphere.